

**INQUIRY INTO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NSW
TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 24 July 2020

Partially
Confidential

To the Inquiry,

This submission is directed to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference (a), (d), (e), (f), and (j).

Universities have promoted nearly 1,000 years of human advancement and flourishing in arts and sciences. Our modern world is unimaginable without the contribution to advanced learning that universities have made across the centuries.

Universities pre-date the form and operation of modern commercial and industrial settings, and indeed created the underpinnings of both.

Universities remain crucial to the sustenance of our civilisation in the decades and centuries to come as we confront the very limits of our planet's natural resource capacity, constraints on growth, and the ever-present dangers and threats to our survival both natural and self-created.

It is thus concerning and indeed threatening to the continued sustenance of our civilisation for any government to reduce the role of universities to a strictly utilitarian and econometric proposition. A society that makes closed-ended demands of its advanced learning institutions in the present constrains its very future in similar closed-ended terms.

It is only through promoting the self-same features of universities that enabled our modern advancements that we can expect our universities to deliver a fruitful pathway to our shared future.

Those features historically included open-ended inquiry, free and unconstrained research independent of short-term economic and political imperatives, a stable and tenured academy, and fully-sponsored admission and support for students reserved and funded by the institution. Sadly today those features are increasingly scant or even lacking entirely in many cases.

By looking to the traditions that built universities into the civilisational and developmental institutions we know them to be, we can ascertain what must be undertaken and indeed restored in order to forge ahead.

I trust this submission is of assistance to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,